

In re Patent Application of:
Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.
Serial No. 09/197,534
Filed: November 23, 1998
For: LASER PROCESS



Examiner: William Coleman
Group Art Unit: 2823

**Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6440785 is in the same family as JP 06-124913.

Further, Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention that Fig. 1 of reference JP 63-316430 was specifically relied upon by JPO. Applicants also wish to add the following description concerning the reference numerals for Fig. 1 as follows:

- 10: a pulse laser such as an excimer laser
12: an expanding lens
14: an object lens
16: energy amount controlling means
18: rotation controlling means
20: a beam splitter
22: a condensing lens
24: a light receiving element
26: a coherency removing device
28: an optical integrator such as flyers lens
30: condenser lens
32: a reticle (synonym: a mask)
38: a controlling device for controlling the energy amount

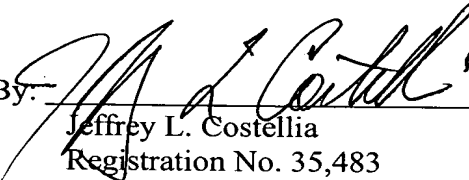
Although not shown in the drawings, the light incident on the reticle is next directed to a photosensitive substrate through a projection lens to expose the photosensitive substrate. The substrate is placed on a x-y movable stage. Also, the energy amount controlling means 16 may be a polarization plate. Alternatively, the controlling means 16 may be a plurality of mesh filters which have different mesh sizes and can be switched.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initial a copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

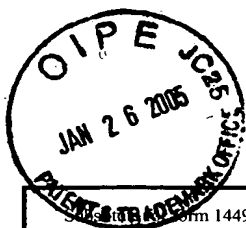
Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


Jeffrey L. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2128

Telephone: (202) 585-8000



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known			
				Application Number		09/197,534	
				Filing Date		November 23, 1998	
				First Named Inventor		Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.	
				Art Unit		2823	
				Examiner Name		William Coleman	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		740756-1894	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-6,440,785 B1	08/27/2002	Yamazaki et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-06-124913	05/06/1994	Suzuki		AB
		JP-63-316430	12/23/1988	Yamazaki et al.		AB

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.